

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 5 SECTO 3016

FOR S/PRS: DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 27

REF: STATE 056619

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE'S

PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN

MOSCOW MARCH 27, 1600 HOURS LOCAL TIME:

(BEGIN TEXT)

SECRETARY VANCE: FIRST LET ME APOLOGIZE FOR DOING
THIS TO YOU ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON, BUT I DID PROMISE
THAT WE'D GET A CHANCE TO MEET EVERY DAY. I REALLY
DON'T HAVE MUCH NEW TO ADD. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TODAY

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ON FINE-TUNING OUR PREPARATIONS FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS
WHICH START TOMORROW. REALLY THAT'S ABOUT ALL NEW
THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE WE ARRIVED HERE LAST NIGHT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY: PRAVDA HAS AN EDITORIAL TODAY
IN WHICH IT SAYS THAT THE FINALIZATION OF VLADIVOSTOK IS NOT
OUR FAULT, NOT OUR, THE RUSSIANS' FAULT, AND THAT THE

UNITED STATES HAS LET THIS DRAG ON FOR AN UNPARDONABLY LONG TIME. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THAT SIR?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, WHATEVER MAY HAVE BEEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PAST THAT LED TO THE FACT THAT WE DON'T YET HAVE A SALT II AGREEMENT, I CONSIDER THAT SOMETHING OF THE PAST AND THAT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN BEGIN TO MAKE IT MOVE AGAIN AND GET A SALT II AGREEMENT AND GET IT PROMPTLY.

QUESTION: COULD I FOLLOW UP, SIR? THE EDITORIAL AS WELL INDICTS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS THE FORD ADMINISTRATION SAYING THERE HAD BEEN NO DEEDS BY THE DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION TO DEMONSTRATE ITS READINESS TO MOVE FORWARD.

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK THAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO GET OURSELVES PREPARED FOR THESE TALKS. IT HAS TAKEN US NOT AN UNREASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO GET READY FOR THE TALKS. WE'VE ONLY BEEN IN OFFICE SOME TWO MONTHS AND WE ARE NOW HERE AND PREPARED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION.

QUESTION: WOULD YOU, THERE'S BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF DISCUSSION OF CONFUSION OVER YOUR STATEMENT MADE ON THE PLANE THAT THE ESSENTIALS OF YOUR COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE ABOUT (INAUDIBLE). COULD YOU CLARIFY WHAT YOU MEANT BY THAT? I THINK YOU SAID THAT MINOR DETAILS ARE NEGOTIABLE BUT NOT THE ESSENTIALS.

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SECRETARY VANCE: OF COURSE IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS OBVIOUSLY YOU LISTEN TO WHATEVER THE OTHER SIDE HAS TO SAY. WE THINK THAT THE PROPOSALS WHICH WE ARE MAKING ARE SOUND PROPOSALS AND I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL BE THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT THAT THEY SHOULD SERVE AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE TO LEAD TO THE FINAL AGREEMENT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU EXPECT THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO COME UP EITHER FROM THE OTHER SIDE OR WOULD YOU BRING IT UP YOURSELF?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK THAT IT MAY COME UP; IF IT DOES COME UP, OF COURSE, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY: YOU AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAVE FREQUENTLY TALKED ABOUT DEEP CUTS IN THE

COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU HOW
DEEP IS DEEP?

SECRETARY VANCE: I SAID YESTERDAY I'M NOT GOING TO GET
INTO NUMBERS. THAT'S A THING WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN CARE
OF IN THE FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND
THEREFORE I'M GOING TO STAY AWAY FROM NUMBERS.

QUESTION: IS 2,000 IN THE BALLPARK? (LAUGHTER)

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY: YESTERDAY YOU TALKED ABOUT
WHAT YOU MIGHT EXPECT IN THE WAY OF ATMOSPHERICS. NOW
THAT YOU HAVE ARRIVED AND YOU SPENT A LITTLE BIT OF
TIME LAST NIGHT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, COULD
YOU EXPAND A LITTLE BIT AND TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT,
PERHAPS CHARACTERIZE, YOUR RECEPTION AND GIVE US A LITTLE
IDEA ABOUT WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO SAY.
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SECRETARY VANCE: SURE. LET ME REPEAT WHAT I SAID
YESTERDAY: THAT I HOPE THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WOULD
BE CORDIAL AND BUSINESSLIKE. THE RECEPTION WHICH WE
RECEIVED LAST NIGHT WAS VERY CORDIAL. WE HAD A VERY
GOOD DISCUSSION, CORDIAL DISCUSSION, WITH THE FOREIGN
MINISTER COMING IN AND I'M TERRIBLY HAPPY WITH THE
RECEPTION WHICH WE RECEIVED.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE, MR. SECRETARY? ARE
YOU GOING TO SEE MR. BREZHNEV IN THE MORNING? WILL
YOU SEE HIM AT EVERY SESSION OR WILL YOU BE MEETING
WITH MR. GROMYKO?

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SECRETARY VANCE: WE WILL BE MEETING TOMORROW MORNING
IN THE KREMLIN. AS TO WHO THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE
I THINK WE'LL LEAVE THAT UNTIL TOMORROW.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: ARE YOU GOING TO BRING UP
THE QUESTION OF MICROWAVES AND RADIATION--THE PROBLEM
IN THE EMBASSY?

SECRETARY VANCE: THAT MAY COME UP AS ONE OF THE TOPICS.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: COULD YOU AMPLIFY A BIT, SIR,
AT THIS STAGE BEFORE THE TALKS BEGIN TOMORROW AS TO WHY
THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY AT THIS
PARTICULAR STAGE TO MAKE WHAT AMOUNTS TO A QUANTUM JUMP
IN MOVING FORWARD VERY RAPIDLY INTO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS
IN THE NUCLEAR ARMED FORCES LEVEL?

SECRETARY VANCE: WE LOOK AT THE OBJECTIVE THAT BOTH
SIDES ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE. THAT OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE
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REAL PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL. IT SEEMS
TO US THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO SEE IF WE CAN'T MAKE
SOME REAL PROGRESS. OBVIOUSLY, PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE
IN SALT I AND IN THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT BUT WE HOPE
THAT WE COULD SEE MORE RAPID PROGRESS BECAUSE IT IS AS
I SAID TO YOU YESTERDAY NOT ONLY IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH
OURSELVES AND THE SOVIET UNION, BUT THE WORLD IN GENERAL
THAT WE MOVE THESE DISCUSSIONS MORE RAPIDLY TOWARDS
REALLY TRUE ARMS CONTROL AND ONLY BY GETTING INTO DEEPER
CUTS ARE WE MAKING THAT KIND OF PROGRESS.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: DO YOU EXPECT YOUR FIRST
MEETING TOMORROW TO PUT FORWARD THE AMERICA SALT
PROPOSALS AND TO THEREBY PERMIT THE SOVIETS A COUPLE
OF DAYS BEFORE GIVING YOU A REPLY, OR DO YOU EXPECT
SOME KIND OF A RELY FROM THE SOVIETS IF THESE PROPOSALS
HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRIVATELY PROPOSED?

SECRETARY VANCE: IN OUR DISCUSSIONS TOMORROW I WILL PUT FORWARD OUR PROPOSALS ON SALT AND I WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS, I AND MY COLLEAGUES, SHOULD THE SOVIETS CHOOSE TO DO SO, SHOULD THE DESIRE TO DEFER TIL THE NEXT DAY, TUESDAY, OR EVEN TILL WEDNESDAY, TO CONTINUE THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OR TAKE UP DETAILED DISCUSSION, THAT'S ALRIGHT WITH ME. WE'RE PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER TIME THAT IS REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT THESE DISCUSSIONS BECAUSE I SAID I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING WE ARE DOING WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL SORT OF OUTLINE ON WHAT YOU ARE PROPOSING TO DO IN THE FIRST SESSION?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK FROM READING THE NEWSPAPERS YOU WOULD HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF THE GENERAL OUTLINES OF THE PROPOSAL.

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QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: DO YOU THINK YOU CAN EXPECT TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT, THE KIND YOU WOULD REALLY LIKE, BY THE OCTOBER DEADLINE OR DOES THAT INVOLVE POTENTIALLY EXTENDING SALT I UNTIL YOU COMPLETE THE COMPREHENSIVE SALT II?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE ONE BY OCTOBER. IT WOULD MEAN THAT EVERYBODY WOULD HAVE TO WORK VERY HARD AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO BEND EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES TO ACCOMPLISH IT. BUT I THINK IT IS POSSIBLE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: WHAT GOOD DO YOU THINK IT DOES TO SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION? WHAT SPECIFIC GOOD DOES IT DO?

SECRETARY VANCE: LET ME SAY ON BEHALF OF THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE WHOLE THAT WE HAVE SPOKEN OUT ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACROSS THE BOARD NOT SOLELY WITH RESPECT TO THE SOVIET UNION. WE HAVE INDICATED, AS THE PRESIDENT DID IN HIS SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS, THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT TRANSCENDED INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR EVEN REGIONS. WE HAVE NO INTENT TO SINGLE OUT ANY COUNTRY, AND WHEREVER WE HAVE SPOKEN OUT IT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS SUCH.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: WHAT DO YOU EXPECT IT TO DO? WHAT GOOD DO YOU EXPECT IT TO ACCOMPLISH?

SECRETARY VANCE: WE HOPE THAT IT WILL OVER A PERIOD OF TIME SENSITIZE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THE PROBLEMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND AS A RESULT OF THAT WE WILL SEE ACUTUAL TANGIBLE PROGRESS BEING MADE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: CAN I ASK YOU THIS IN A REPLY
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TO AN EARLIER QUESTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS? YOU SAID THAT YOU THINK IT MAY COME UP; IF IT DOES WILL YOU BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT? MY QUESTION TO YOU, SIR, IS WHETHER YOU PLAN ON YOUR OWN BEHALF TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DO NOT PLAN IN MY OPENING STATEMENT TO TOUCH ON IT.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: WILL YOU BE TALKING ABOUT SOUTHER AFRICA AT ALL IN THE COURSE OF YOU DISCUSSIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I'M SURE THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WIL COME UP DURING THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS. I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD COME UP LATER ON DURING THE WEEK AND NOT IN ANY DEPTH THIS FIRST DAY BECAUSE THE CENTRAL FOCUS, I BELIEVE, FROM THE STANDPOINT OF BOTH SIDES IS GOING TO BE ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS QUESTION.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: WHAT MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WILL ACTUALLY SIT IN ON THE SALT TALKS? IN CONNECTION WITH THAT WILL YOU DO THE VAST BULK OF THE TALKING ON THE AMERICAN SIDE OR WILL SOME OF THE OTHERS...

SECRETARY VANCE: THE ANSWER IS YES I WILL DO THE BULK OF THE TALKING ON OUR SIDE. WE WILL HAVE REALLY A

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SMALL GROUP, PROBABLY FOUR OR FIVE AT MOST, INCLUDING
A NOTE TAKER. I DON'T THINK MORE THAN FOUR OR FIVE.

QUESTION: COULD YOU TELL WHO THEY WILL BE, SIR?

SECRETARY VANCE: I WILL LEAVE THAT UNTIL TOMORROW.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE HAD
AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV
BEFORE.

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I HAVE NOT.

QUESTION: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER YOU WILL BE HAVING
PRIVATE TALKS WITH HIM, SIR?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I DON'T KNOW AT THIS POINT WHETHER
I WILL OR NOT.

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QUESTION: WILL YOU BE SEEING ANY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS
WHILE YOU ARE HERE?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I WILL NOT.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY...

SECRETARY VANCE: YES

QUESTION: MR. CARTER LAID OUT THE AGENDA AT HIS MARCH 24
PRESS CONFERENCE. DO YOU FEEL THAT SUCCESS OF PROGRESS
ON THE NON-SALT PARTS OF THE AGENDA DEPENDS ON HAVING
PROGRESS IN THE SALT TALKS? IN OTHER WORDS, WITH NO
PROGRESS IN SALT, CAN THERE BE PROGRESS ON ANY OTHER

PART OF THAT AGENDA?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, I THINK SO.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY: YOU SAID YOU WERE NOT GOING TO RAISE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. CAN YOU TELL ME IF YOU ARE GOING TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION LIKE THE RAY MCCLELLAN CASE?

SECRETARY VANCE: I BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION COULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ON THAT ISSUE, IN FOLLOW-UP, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT YOU GOT A LIST OF 700 NAMES.

SECRETARY VANCE: I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON DETAILS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE SUBJECTS YOU WILL RAISE IN THE OPENING STATEMENT? YOU MENTIONED SALT.

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SECRETARY VANCE: I WILL TOUCH BRIEFLY ON EACH OF THE ITEMS IN THE AGENDA WHICH WE AGREED UPON WITH THE SOVIETS AND AS YOU KNOW THAT INCLUDES A NUMBER OF ITEMS-- THE STRATEGIC ARMS ITEMS, THE ITEMS DEALING WITH OTHER ARMS LIMITATIONS, MATTERS OF TRADE AND A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, AND IN ADDITION TO THAT, SOME BILATERAL QUESTIONS.

QUESTION: ON THE SUBJECT OF TRADE, DO YOU SEE ANY MOVEMENT OR DESIRE WITHIN THE CONGRESS TO RESCIND THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT IN FAVOR OF MORE TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND BETTER RELATIONS?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK THERE ARE MIXED VIEWS IN CONGRESS ON THIS AT THIS POINT IN TIME. AND WE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

QUESTION: ON THE WHOLE, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT THERE ISN'T MUCH DESIRE IN THE CONGRESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK THAT AT THIS POINT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET IT REVERSED IN CONGRESS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY; ON SUBJECTS ASIDE FROM SALT, WOULD YOU BRING FORTH ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, SAY ON

THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND THE SUBJECT OF
ARMS TRADE?

SECRETARY VANCE: I THINK ON THE MIDDLE EAST I WOULD
EXPECT WE WOULD JUST MERELY HAVE A GENERAL REVIEW OF
THE SITUATION THAT EXISTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND A
DISCUSSION OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID BY THE VARIOUS LEADERS
ON BOTH SIDES UP TO THIS POINT IN TIME. I AM, OF
COURSE, PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY MATTERS RELATING TO IT
THAT MAY COME UP, BUT I WOULD EXPECT IT TO BE SORT OF
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A GENERAL OVERVIEW AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED. ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA, I THINK WE MIGHT VERY WELL DISCUSS
SPECIFIC ITEMS HAVING TO DO PARTICULARLY WITH THE
QUESTIONS OF RHODESIA AND NAMBIA.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, ARE THERE ANY POSSIBILITIES
OF A SUMMIT CARTER/BREZHNEV MEETING BEFORE FORMAL
AGREEMENT ON A NEW SALT AGREEMENT OR IS SUCH A SUMMIT
SPECIFICALLY TIED TO AN AGREEMENT AND WOULD COME AFTER
AGREEMENT?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DON'T THINK IT IS NECESSARILY TIED
TO THAT, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION YET BETWEEN
THE PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY SPECIFIC DATE WHEN
SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE HELD.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WHAT HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF THE
IZVESTIYA ARTICLE OF SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHICH ACCUSED
SEVERAL JEWISH ACTIVISTS OF BEING SPIES FOR CIA MEN
WORKING UNDER EMBASSY COVER?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DID NOT READ THE ARTICLE ITSELF.
I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE ARTICLE. I AM NOT FAMILIAR
WITH THE SPECIFIC FACTS RELATING TO THE PARTICULAR
CASES WHERE THE ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WERE YOU AND THE ADMINIS-
TRATION ENCOURAGED BY SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S COMMENTS
ON THE SOVIET PLAN FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT?

SECRETARY VANCE: I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THAT IN
FURTHER DEPTH BEFORE GIVING YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT.
THERE ARE CERTAIN PARTS OF IT THAT APPEAR ON FURTHER
READING TO HAVE SOMETHING NEW IN IT AND I WOULD LIKE
TO SPECIFICALLY ASK WHETHER THERE WAS INDEED SOMETHING
NEW INTENDED.
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QUESTION: WHAT PARTS STRUCK YOU AS NEW? YOU SAID
THERE WERE SOME PARTS THAT APPEARED TO BE NEW.
WHICH WERE THOSE?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE PARTS DEALING WITH THE QUESTION
OF BOUNDARIES APPEAR TO BE NEW.

QUESTION: I AM SORRY SIR. MY I GO BACK TO THIS?
THE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ACCUSED MARVIN LEVITSKY, WHO IS
IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT RIGHT NOW, OF SPECIFICALLY
BEING A SPY -ONE OF YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS-
AND IMPLIED...

SECRETARY VANCE: AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED THAT IS
CERTAINLY NOT TRUE.

QUESTION: CERTAINLY NOT TRUE?
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SECRETARY VANCE: YES, CERTAINLY NOT TRUE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: A SPECIFIC TECHNICAL POINT. THE CRUISE MISSILE--IS IT NOW THE AMERICAN FEELING, IS IT YOUR FEELING, THE TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRUISE MISSILE IS VERIFIABLE?

SECRETARY VANCE: THE VERIFICATION IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IN THE WHOLE CRUISE MISSILE FIELD. THAT'S ONE OF THE REAL PROBLEMS OF THE CRUISE MISSILE. AT THIS POINT THERE ARE NO METHODS OF VERIFICATION WHICH PROVIDE THE KIND OF VERIFICATION I THINK BOTH OF US, BOTH SIDES, WOULD LIKE TO HAVE. THAT'S BEEN ONE OF THE PROBLEMS FO THE CURSE MISSILE ALL ALONG. YOU CAN HAVE SOME VERIFICATION BUT IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

QUESTION: ARE THOSE REMARKS SUBJECT TO DEPLOYMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH?

SECRETARY VANCE: BOTH.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: THE SOVIETS HAVE SAID THAT THEY THINK THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION WILL COMPLICATE THESE NEGOTIATIONS. DO YOU THINK THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION WILL COMPLICATE THEM?

SECRETARY VANCE: I HOPE THEY WOULD NOT COMPLICATE THEM. THE SUBJECT OF SALT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT I THINK THAT IT CAN AND SHOULD STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET AND I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WILL BE THE CASE.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: IN YOUR RIDE YESTERDAY BACK FROM THE AIRPORT TO TOWN WITH MR GROMYKO, WAS IT MOSTLY SMALL TALK OR DID YOU DISCUSS (LAUGHTER) ANYTHING OF A MORE SUBSTANTIVE NATURE?

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SECRETARY VANCE: MOSTLY SMALL TALK EXCEPT WE DISCUSSED HOW WE WERE GOING TO PROCEED IN TERMS OF AN AGENDA, ETC. FOR THE COMING WEEK AND THAT WE WERE GOING TO GO TO THE BALLET TONIGHT.

QUESTION: AND YOU FELT THAT MR GROMYKO RADIATED A

CERTAIN WARMTH? (LAUGHTER)

SECRETARY VANCE: HE DID.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: HAVE ANY SOIVET DISSIDENTS
OR JEWISH ACTIVISTS ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH YOU?

SECRETARY VANCE: I BELIEVE SOME DID AND MY REPLY
WAS THAT I WAS GOING TO DEVOTE ALL OF MY TIME DURING
THE PERIOD THAT I WAS HERE TO WORKING ON THE MATTERS
WHICH I CAME TO DISCUSS. THAT WILL KEEP ME FULLY
BUSY.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: HAVE YOU TALKED WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: THE SOVIETS ARE VERY
DISTURBED ABOUT THE GROSS IMBALANCE IN TRADE WITH THE
UNITED STATES. HAVE YOU GOT ANY COMFORT THAT YOU CAN
OFFER THEM WHILE YOU'RE HERE TO REDRESS THEIR
(INAUDIBLE)?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO IMMEDIATE COMFORT, BUT THE SUBJECT
OF TRADE WILL BE A SUBJECT WHICH WILL BE ON THE AGENDA.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: IF THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN
RIGHTS DOES COME UP, WILL YOU OR HAVE YOU ALREADY
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EXPRESSED TO THE SOVIETS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION MAY
RUN INTO SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH CONGRESS IN RATIFYING
THE SALT AGREEMENT SHOULD THE SOVIETS' CRACKDOWN ON
DISSIDENTS CONTINUE?

SECRETARY VANCE: I HAVE NOT YET EXPRESSED THAT VIEW
TO THE SOVIET UNION IN ANSWER TO YOUR SPECIFIC
QUESTION. WHEN AND IF THE QUESTION COMES UP
TOMORROW I WILL RESPOND AT THAT TIME.

QUESTION: IS THERE AN ADMINISTRATION FEAR THAT THAT
MAY HAPPEN?

SECRETARY VANCE: I'D PREFER NOT TO COMMENT ON THAT
AT THIS POINT.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF
SPECULTION IN AMERICAN MAGIZINES AND NEWSPAPERS ON THE
AMBASSADORSHIP TO THIS COUNTRY. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE

TO TELL MR TOON, OR IN FRONT OF US...?

SECRETARY VANCE: I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED PUBLICLY THE QUESTION OF AMBASSADORSHIPS WITH ANYBODY. I AM NOT GOING TO DO THAT. WHEN AND UNTIL WE, AS A GOVERNMENT, MAKE THE STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THAT ISSUE, I'M GOING TO ADHERE TO THAT. THAT PROPERLY COMES FROM THE PRESIDENT RATHER THAN FROM ME AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES WE WILL LET THE PUBLIC KNOW.

QUESTION: MR SECRETARY: DO YOU EXPECT THE SOVIETS WILL MAKE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON SALT OR WILL THEY SIMPLY RESPOND TO YOURS?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I THINK THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE TO SUGGEST AND I WOULD NOT RULE OUT, INDEED, I WOULD EXPECT, THAT THEY WOULD
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PROBABLY HAVE SOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE.

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO REVERT TO THE REVIEW PIECE IN PRAVDA AGAIN IN WHICH THEY SAID MORE THAN TWO

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FOR S/PRS: DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI
AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL; USIA FOR IPS/PE

MONTHS LATER CONCRETE STEPS WERE STILL NOT VISIBLE
ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON ARMS REDUCTION.
DO YOU THINK THIS OVERLOOKS SOME OF THE STATEMENTS
AND PROPOSALS THAT THE PRESIDENT PUT FORWARD AND, IF SO,
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT PRAVDA MIGHT HAVE TAKEN THIS
POSITION?

SECRETARY VANCE: I DON'T KNOW WHY ANY PARTICULAR WORDS
WERE CHOSEN BY PRAVDA. I THINK THAT PRESIDENT CARTER
HAS MADE IN GENERAL TERMS SOME CONCRETE AND VERY HELPFUL
PROPOSALS AND I THINK THAT WHEN WE FLESH THOSE OUT
THEY WILL BE SEEN TO BE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS AND
I HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL FEEL SO.
YES, MR. BRANDON?

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, IF YOU WERE ASKED WHY
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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DECIDED TO DOUBLE THE FUNDS
FOR RADIO FREE EUROPE, WHAT WILL YOU BE ANSWERING?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL, EVEN AFTER WE HAVE DOUBLED
THE FUNDS, WE WILL BE SPENDING LESS IN THIS AREA
THAN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, I BELIEVE INCLUDING THE
SOVIET UNION, FOR THAT PURPOSE.
A COUPLE OF MORE QUESTIONS AND THEN WE'LL...

QUESTION: BUT THEY'RE SPENDING MORE TO BROADCAST TO
AMERICA THAN WE'RE SPENDING TO BROADCAST TO THEM?

SECRETARY VANCE: NO, I WAS TALKING IN THE GENERAL
FIELD OF...

QUESTION: OF RADIO PROPAGANDA?

SECRETARY VANCE: YES, THAT'S RIGHT. INFORMATION I WOULD
CALL IT. (LAUGHTER)

ONE MORE QUESTION.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU TALKED TO MR. GROMYKO ON THE TRIP
IN, DID YOU MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING YOUR
TALKS FOR AN ADDITIONAL DAY, AND IF SO, WHAT WAS HIS
REPLY?

SECRETARY VANCE: I SAID I WOULD BE HAPPY TO STAY HERE AS LONG AS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAKE PROGRESS AND IF WE WERE MAKING PROGRESS THAT I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO STAY ON FOR ANOTHER DAY OR TWO, THREE, WHATEVER IS REQUIRED.

QUESTION: AND HIS RESPONSE?

SECRETARY VANCE: AS TO THE EXACT WORDS, I THINK HE UNCLASSIFIED

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OUGHT TO MAKE IT. I WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS RESPONSE. THANKS VERY MUCH. (END TEXT).

FOLLOWING THE FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY ALSO ANSWERED ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS IN THE EMBASSY COURTYARD:

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE)

SECRETARY VANCE: I WANT TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND AND TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE. I HOPE VERY MUCH THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO START SOME REAL PROGRESS NOW THAT WE ARE HERE. I KNOW THAT THE EDITORIAL REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ITSELF HAD ALLEGEDLY BEEN SLOVENLY. I CANNOT BELIEVE WE HAVE. THIS IS QUITE A SERIOUS SUBJECT. IT HAS TAKEN US A PERIOD OF TIME WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW OUR POSITION. WE HAVE DONE SO; I THINK WE ARE COMING UP WITH SOME VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNDULY LONG IN GETTING READY FOR THESE TALKS.

QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, THE TWO PROPOSALS THAT YOU WILL MAKE--ONE A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND THE OTHER ONE A DEFERRAL--SEEM BOTH TO HAVE BEEN REJECTED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER AT LEAST BY THE SOVIETS. WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL FIND THEM CONSTRUCTIVE AT THIS TIME?

SECRETARY VANCE: WELL I HOPE THAT WHEN WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE CONCRETE PROPOSALS WITH RESPECT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE, THAT THEY WILL SEE THAT IT REALLY IS A VERY CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL WHICH DEALS WITH SUBSTANCE AND THAT AS WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT IN ITS FULL DETAIL THAT THEY MAY SEE THE MERIT OF IT. UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF AN ATMOSPHERE ARE YOU
ANTICIPATING NOW? YOU HAD A CHANCE TO TALK BRIEFLY
WITH MR. GROMYKO.

SECRETARY VANCE: I'VE BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH THE
CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH WE'VE SEEN DURING OUR BRIEF
TIME HERE, AND THE VERY CORDIAL WELCOME WHEN WE CAME
YESTERDAY EVENING AND GROMYKO WAS VERY KIND AND
CORDIAL ON OUR RIDE IN FROM THE AIRPORT. WE ARE
GOING TO GO TO THE BALLET TOGETHER THIS EVENING
AND I HOPE AND EXPECT THAT WE'LL CONTINUE TO BE
CORDIAL AND BUSINESSLIKE.
THANKS A LOT. (END TEXT). VANCE

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